

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP, IT (CARTER MRS. ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: U.S. DELEGATION TO POPE PAUL VI'S FUNERAL

SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION TO POPE PAUL'S
FUNERAL LED BY MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER WAS WARMLY AND APPRECIATIVELY
RECEIVED BOTH BY VATICAN AND BY GENERAL PUBLIC. HIGH LEVEL OF
USDEL AND PARTICULARLY PRESENCE MRS. CARTER ON DELEGATION SEEN
AS EARNEST OF U.S. DESIRE SHOW RESPECT FOR LATE POPE, AS INDICAT-
ION OF SIGNIFICANCE WE ASCRIBE TO RELATIONS WITH VATICAN AND
AS RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANT ROLE ROMAN CATHOLIC POPULATION
PLAYS IN U.S. NATIONAL LIFE.

1. VATICAN ORGANIZED TWO CEREMONIES FOR POPE PAUL'S FUNERAL
ATTENDED BY 111 CARDINALS AND 600 DELEGATES REPRESENTING 106
COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MRS CARTER AND OTHER
MEMBERS U.S. DELEGATION ATTENDED BOTH:

A. THE STATE FUNERAL ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, WHICH AT LAST
MONENT WAS MOVED FROM THE BASILICA OF ST. PETERS TO ST. PETERS
SQUARE TO ACCOMODATE THE 150,000 PERSONS WHO WITNESSED IT;

B. THE PRESENTATION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE COLLEGE OF
CARDINALS ON SUNDAY, 13 AUGUST WHICH WAS HELD IN THE APOSTOLIC
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PALACE IN THE VATICAN. MRS. CARTER WAS ACCORDED PRECEDENCE,
FOLLOWING HEADS OF STATE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF RULING HOUSES.
THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE WAS UNUSUALLY HELPFUL IN FACILITATING
PROTOCOL AND SECURITY ASPECTS OF VISIT.

2. PRIOR TO FUNERAL, SIX (BAUM, CARBERRY, COOKE, KROL,
MEDEIROS AND MANNING) OF THE NINE AMERICAN CARDINALS PRESENT IN
ROME ACCOMPANIED BY ENCOY WALTERS) CALLED ON MRS. CARTER.

3. A COMPLETE LIST OF HEADS OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS IS BEING
POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT ATTENTION AMBASSADOR DOBELLE.

4. FOLLOWING THE CONDOLECCES CEREMONY ON SUNDAY AUGUST 13,
WALTERS ARRANGED FOR MRS. CARTER THROUGH
THE VATICAN SECRETARIAT OF STATE, A SPECIAL GUIDED VISIT
OF VARIOUS LOGGIAS AND APARTMENTS IN THE APOSTOMIC PALACE AND
OF ST. PETERS BASILICA.

5. U.S. DELEGATION RECEIVED HEAVIEST COVERAGE ANY DELEGATION
TO FUNERAL. EARLY SPECULATION IN ITALIAN MEDIA OVER WHO
WOULD REPRESENT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS FOLLOWED BY WIDESPREAD
COVERAGE OF DELEGATIONS ARRIVAL IN ROME. BOTH NATIONAL
TELEVISION CHANNELS SHOWED FILM CLIPS OF MRS.
CARTERS ARRIVAL. OTHER ARRIVALS WERE ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING
COVERAGE OF U.S. DELEGATION, BUT NONE WERE
SHOWN. TWO NATIONAL RADIO STATIONS BROADCAST ALL OR
PART OF MRS. CARTER'S ARRIVAL STAEMENT ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT
NEWSCASTS. ITALIAN DAILIES CARRIED HEAVY PHOTOGRAPHIC
COVERAGE OF ARRIVAL AND SEVERAL PAPERS
FEATURED PHOTOS OF MRS. CARTER AT FUNERAL CEREMONIES.
IL GIORNO CARRIED DEPARTURE PHOTO AND IT TEMPO PUBLISHED
PHOTO OF MRS. CARTER TALKING WITH CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI
DURING CONDOLENCE CALL. SENATOR KENNEDY'S ARRIVAL TO
JOIN DELEGATION AND HIS STOP AT VIA FANI, SITE OF MORO
KIDNAPPING, GENERATED WIDE AND SYMPATHETIC INTEREST.
MOST MAJOR PAPERS REPORTED EVENT. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
DAILY IL POPOLO CALLED IT A MOVING AND SIGNIFICANT
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ACT OF HOMAGE". DC-ORIENTED TG-1 AND SOCIALIST-ORIENTED
TG-2 CARRIED FILM CLIPS OF KENNEDY LAYING WREATH AT SITE.

6. VATICAN AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THE PRESIDENTIAL
DELEGATION WAS HIGHLY POSITIVE. MRS. CARTER'S PRESENCE
WAS TAKEN AS AN EARNEST OF U.S. DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE
RESPECT FOR LATE POPE, AS INDICATION OF SIGNIFICANCE WE
ASCRIBE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH VATICAN AND AS CLEAR EVIDENCE
OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH ROMAN CATHOLIC POPULATION PLAYS
IN AMERICAN NATIONAL LIFE.

7. REACTION TO MRS. CARTER PERSONALLY WAS
EXCEPTIONALLY WARM. WHILE CONSIDERATIONS OF SECURITY AND
THE SOLEMN NATURE OF THE VISIT DID NOT PERMIT EXTENSIVE
EXPOUSRE TO THE PUBLIC, THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO HAVE EVEN LIMITED
CONTACT WITH HER WERE IMPRESSED AND TOUCHED BY HER
DESIRE TO TAKE THE TIME TO SAY A FEW WORDS TO EVERYONE SHE
WAS GIVEN A CHANCE TO MEET, BY HER WILLINGNESS TO BE
PHOTOGRAPHED WITH MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE,
AND BY THE SIMPLICITY AND WARMTH OF HER MANNER.
FIRST LADY AND MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION REPRESENTED
THE UNITED STATES WITH THE GRACE AND DIGNITY WHICH THE
OCCASION CALLED FOR. HOLMES

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